

Applicant: Reijo Jokinen et al.
Application No.: 09/913,901
Art Unit: 3743

Remarks

Claims 28–35, 37–56, and 58–63 remain pending in the application. In the Office Action dated July 28, 2004, claim 50 was rejected as indefinite under 35 U.S.C. §112. Claims 28–63 were rejected as obvious over *Thomas* in view of *Heikkila*.

In the office action the examiner failed to provided an initialed copy of Applicant's SB/08A filed on April 27, 2004. Because the Information Disclosure Statement was timely filed before the mailing date of the final action, and listed documents which were first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing, the references cited must be considered. Attached is a copy of the IDS, SB/08A and the postcard evidencing that the references were received by the USPTO on April 27, 2004, three months before the mailing date of the present Office Action. Consideration is respectfully requested.

Heikkila 5,163,236 relates to the design of a papermaking line and at most discloses adjusting the vacuum on suction devices to achieve runnability, but does not suggest increasing and decreasing negative pressure to control vacuum level according to a function which is based on a parameter which acts on the runnability of the web and which varies during the running of the web. It is one thing to adjust a machine in order to make it work better, it is quite another thing to control an adjustable variable based on a varying parameter. So, although the pressure values selected are based on the web speed, web grammage, and web moisture, not shown is increasing and decreasing pressure according to function based on at least one parameter which can be varied or varies during the running of the web.

US 5,535,527 (cited by applicant but apparently not received by the examiner) does disclose, in claim 3, that "the vacuum level is regulated as a function of the running speed of the web." Thus the claims have been limited by amendment to parameters which are not suggested by the prior art.

In claim 48 "web composition" has been amended to – web pulp composition– in conformance with the language of claim 28.

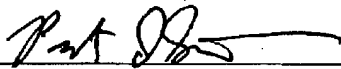
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Applicant believes that no new matter has been added by this amendment.

Applicant submits that the claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance.

Favorable action thereon is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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